

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for selecting suppliers in a supply chain management framework, comprising:
 - a) a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising an amount of goods sold over the counter by the plurality of stores on at least a daily basis[, with the sales not via the network];
 - b) the supply chain management computer receiving, utilizing the network, supplier information from a plurality of suppliers and/or distributors and/or stores in order to facilitate comparisons of suppliers based on at least one of the following supplier performance parameters, including fill rate, perfect delivery, lead-time, and on-time delivery;
 - c) the supply chain management computer generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering goods from a distributor of the supply chain;
 - d) obtaining an identification of a plurality of suppliers to supply the goods;
 - e) the independent supply chain manager using the supplier information to select one of the suppliers and to transmit a supplier electronic order form that includes at least one of the supplier performance parameters to the selected supplier of the supply chain utilizing the network; and
 - f) the supply chain management computer of the independent supply chain manager generating an alert based on a comparison of the supplier performance parameter in the supplier electronic order form to an actual performance of the supplier.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently amended) A system for selecting suppliers in a supply chain management framework, comprising:
an electronic storage; and

a set of processors that use the electronic storage and include among them the following logic elements
 - a) logic for a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising an amount of goods sold over the counter by the plurality of stores on at least a daily basis[, with the sales not via the network];
 - b) logic for the supply chain management computer receiving, utilizing the network, supplier information from a plurality of suppliers and/or distributors and/or stores in order to facilitate comparisons of suppliers based on at least one of the following supplier performance parameters, including fill rate, perfect delivery, lead-time, and on-time delivery;
 - c) logic for the supply chain management computer generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering goods from a distributor of the supply chain;
 - d) logic for obtaining an identification of a plurality of suppliers to supply the goods;
 - e) logic for the independent supply chain manager using the supplier information to select one of the suppliers and to transmit a supplier electronic order form that includes at least one of the supplier performance parameters to the selected supplier of the supply chain utilizing the network; and
 - f) logic for the supply chain management computer of the independent supply chain manager generating an alert based on a comparison of the supplier performance parameter in the supplier electronic order form to an actual performance of the supplier.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Currently amended) A computer program product for selecting suppliers in a supply chain management framework, comprising:
a set of computer usable media having computer readable program code embodied therein to be executed by a computer, the computer readable program code comprising:
 - a) computer code for a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising an amount of goods sold over the counter by the plurality of stores on at least a daily basis[, with the sales not via the network];
 - b) computer code for the supply chain management computer receiving, utilizing the network, supplier information from a plurality of suppliers and/or distributors and/or stores in order to facilitate comparisons of suppliers based on at least one of the following supplier performance parameters, including fill rate, perfect delivery, lead-time, and on-time delivery;
 - c) computer code for the supply chain management computer generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering goods from a distributor of the supply chain;
 - d) computer code for obtaining an identification of a plurality of suppliers to supply the goods;

- e) computer code for the independent supply chain manager using the supplier information to select one of the suppliers and to transmit a supplier electronic order form that includes at least one of the supplier performance parameters to the selected supplier of the supply chain utilizing the network; and
 - f) computer code for the supply chain management computer of the independent supply chain manager generating an alert based on a comparison of the supplier performance parameter in the supplier electronic order form to an actual performance of the supplier.
14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the Internet.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled).
18. (Cancelled)